



The Promise

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Thoughts From a Host Church

At First Christian Church (DOC) in Clarkston, we have had the pleasure of hosting families for Family Promise. The experience of working together on this meaningful program has lifted the spirits of those involved. It has also brought a new life and renewed sense of purpose to our church. Working with our partner church, First Presbyterian (USA) in Clarkston, has acquainted us with our neighbors and introduced us to other Christians who share our passion to serve those in need. Being involved in Family Promise has been a rewarding experience and we pray we are able to continue in this ministry for years to come. Rev. David L. Carringer

Cardboard Box City 2008

Cardboard Box City 2008 is down in the history books as an awesome event with perfect weather! We had over 50 cardboard homes displaying quite a variety of construction, and 91 registered participants. LCSC engineering students used our event as a class project and were presented with a special award. They provided five quite elaborate homes.

The participants in Cardboard Box City ranged in age from eight months to over sixty years old. Congratulations to our top money raising individuals, Marilee Ford (adult) and Caleb Trotter (youth). The youth groups who raised the most money were from Congregational Presbyterian Church and First Church of the Nazarene. Congratulations to Real Deals Home Décor who were voted the winner of the best-decorated cardboard box award. As of this date just over \$16,000 has been raised through this event which will keep our Interfaith Hospitality Network going for several months; and more is coming! God has been so good to us.

It seemed that the participants had a good time. The entertainment was wonderful. We did have an unexpected visitor at 3:07 am: A big skunk! Thank you to our security guards for coaxing this critter back across 21st Street!

A big **Thank You** to everyone who contributed to or participated in this successful event. We wish we could list everyone but there are just too many, and we wouldn't want to forget anyone. We're already planning for next year which will be bigger and better!!

Toni Kraut & Shirlene Jutte

18 Host and Team Churches

We at Family Promise® Lewis Clark Valley opened our Interfaith Hospitality Network® on August 3rd with 10 Host churches and seven Team churches. We needed one more Team church to provide enough support for our Host churches, however, several Host churches are large enough to provide enough volunteers to handle their week without help.

But, praise God, we have now added another Team church, the "Lewis Clark Catholic Community". We welcome you into our Interfaith Network to help families. A big thank you to Jackson Vance for being the contact person. If there are some of you out there who haven't been contacted yet and would like to be a part of this group, her phone number is 509-758-6162 or 509-758-1714.

Shirlene Jutte

From Our Director

September has been a month that has exceeded our expectations. With the exiting of one of our families, God provided us with another. This has allowed us to recognize the need that is among us.

Our office has been "buzzing" with activity. At the beginning of the month we welcomed two new members to our staff. Keri Wilson has joined us as a business intern from the Business Division at LCSC. She will be with us until the end of the year helping us in our Fundraising and Public Relation efforts. Our second member is Maria Lacey. Maria has joined us as an AmeriCorps Volunteer. Her placement with us is for a full 12 months and she will be helping us with our Tutoring program and Volunteer Recruitment & Retention. This provision is exciting and reflects J. Hudson Taylor's claim: "God's work, done in

God's way, will never lack God's supply."

The Cardboard Box City event was not only fun but a wonderful success. We were able to get the word out about the plight of growing numbers of families in crisis in the LC Valley. In addition to this, we were able to share our success in helping families. With the success of the 1st Annual Cardboard Box City, we are already looking forward to next year's event.

Ron Ramos, Director,
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>>Lost & Found...Did you loose the lens cap to your camera at Cardboard Box City? Call the Family Promise office! <<

Maria Lacey

Maria is a second year member of Lewis-Clark Service Corps, an AmeriCorps State and National program offered through Serve Idaho and the Lewis-Clark State College Community Programs division. She has completed her Associate of Arts in Humanities: Liberal Arts, and will receive her Bachelor of Arts in English in December.

Maria has two sons; Matt is 20 and serving in the US Army with The Old Guard in Ft. Myer, VA. Kevin is 17 and attends Potlatch High School

Maria says, "I first heard about Family Promise at a Social Justice Committee meeting at Holy Family Parish in June, 2007. At the time, I thought 'this is something our community needs' and I've been keeping my ears open for news about it ever since. I was very excited to learn through the AmeriCorps grapevine that Family Promise had obtained a house and begun operations, and waited on the edge of my seat to learn whether or not their request to combine two part time AmeriCorps positions into one full-time position had been approved. I was even more excited to interview for, and am privileged to accept, this position. As someone who's stayed in seven different places between June, 2007 and today, I know firsthand what it's like to hold down a job while you're living out of a suitcase and still be just a paycheck away from not having a place to stay. I look forward to working alongside Family Promise guests as they find their way out of this situation. This is the kind of thing I joined AmeriCorps to do."

We are grateful to have her working with the guests and hosts of Family Promise!

Keri Wilson

Keri's "Wilson Banner Ranch" family has been in this area for 125 years, where many of the family members have been involved with volunteer work. Keri has carried on this volunteering tradition, especially with young people.

She graduated from WSU with a degree in social science and is now working toward a business degree at LCSC, with emphasis on cultural anthropology. She has an internship with Family Promise for several months.

Keri is, in her words, "a doer." In addition to using her fund-raising ability to advantage, she has helped families focus on their own goals, and has made appointments and connections with agencies and classes that will lead to achievement of these goals. Thank you, Keri!

Help Needed

The KRLC Quilters have been making twin-size quilts for our IHN guests. They would like to make a quilt for each guest to take with them when they leave the program. Please help by donating any of the following items:

Fabric, cotton scraps, old T-shirts, sweat shirts and pants, corduroy, pre-quilted material, any size good clean sheets, good clean mattress pads, any color thread in spool or cone form, lace, rick rack, any elastic, 20" to 22" zippers, straight pins, wide bias tape.

Anyone who likes to quilt and would be interested in joining these ladies, call Mary at 743-9308 or Jerrene at 743-1325. They meet Wednesday mornings at 9:00.

Day Center renovations continue...

In the past weeks, volunteers fenced in the back yard, so children now have a safe place to play. Others built shelves in a large downstairs closet, providing a place to store mattresses and bedding. We now have a deck off the dining room; no longer is there a door to 'nowhere'. Shrubs were removed from the yard. The floor in the basement was treated in order to lay carpet. There are curtains in windows, balls in the play equipment tub, toys, books, towels, and so much more, contributed by many.

The Day Center Committee plans to complete work in the basement in order to make that area usable by the families.

There will be a room for tutoring and office work, a recreation room, and upgraded laundry space.

Much has been accomplished, and Family Promise expenses are low, thanks to all who give time, skill and items that the families need. THANK YOU to all!

Thank you, thank you, to Carolyn Jones for all you did to get the Day Center ready and to get the Interfaith Hospitality Network up and running!

Grants Received

First Book awarded Family Promise® of Lewis Clark Valley 1,000 children's books, which are in the process of being selected. The reading levels will include all ages. These books will be divided among the host churches and the Day Center for the reading enjoyment of our guest families as well as for use in tutoring and research in students' homework. When our guests secure permanent homes, the children will choose some of the books to take with them.

In September, Family Promise received an AmeriCorps grant through Lewis Clark State College which provides funds for an AmeriCorps volunteer for one year. The funds are to be matched with \$5,300 by Family Promise. Maria Lacey has joined our Day Center as a full time staff member. Her duties will be tutoring and helping with administrative tasks.

The Rotary Club of Lewiston has granted \$1,000 to Family Promise to be used in upgrading physical needs of the Day Center.
Sharon Hoseley

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